

Washington, D.C. – Today the Financial Services Committee began two days of hearings on draft legislation known as the FHA Housing Stabilization and Homeownership Retention Act. This draft legislation is a mortgage and housing rescue proposal. It could provide up to \$300 billion in new guarantees to refinance at-risk borrowers into good mortgages. This draft legislation is about stemming the foreclosure tide, keeping families in their homes and stabilizing communities. Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) is a member of the Financial Services Committee and issued the following statement at the close of the first day of hearings.

“We need to respond quickly to the sub-prime mortgage crisis. Foreclosure was up 88% in Ohio in 2007.

Mistakes have been made by everyone in the process and there was no government oversight. We need to act.

My committee is holding a 2 day hearing that will continue tomorrow. We’re trying to hash out a bipartisan way to refinance bad loans into good mortgages. This could help between one and two million families facing foreclosure stay in their homes.

The government would get paid back when the homes are eventually sold, so this isn’t a hand-out. It’s about stabilizing the housing market and helping everyone. The value of all homes decline if communities are full of foreclosed and empty homes.”